

Serial No. 09/749,227

Page 2

### Claim Status

Claim 1 (previously amended). A sports racket, comprising;  
a frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis;  
a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel, interwoven groups, wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, the frame and strings are in a non-distorted shape, the intersection angle is selected to completely eliminate distortion.

Claim 2 (original) The sports racket according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape is an oval and said intersection angles are between about 51-58 degrees.

Claim 3 (original) The sports racket according to claim 2, wherein said intersection angles are about 53 degrees.

Claim 4 (original) The sports racket according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined shape is a circle and said intersection angles are about 60 degrees.

Claim 5 (original) The sports racket according to claim 1, wherein the spacing between adjacent parallel strings is between about 0.25 to 0.75 inches.

Claim 6 (original) The sports racket according to claim 5, wherein the spacing between adjacent parallel strings is about 0.375 inches.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The sports racket according to claim 1, wherein the intersection angle is selected to minimize distortion of said predetermined shape.

Serial No. 09/749,227

Page 3

Claim 8 (withdrawn) The racket according to claim 1, wherein every other string is tensioned.

Claim 9 (original) A sports racket, comprising: a frame defining an oval opening of predetermined dimensions with a vertical axis oriented along the elongated dimension and a perpendicular horizontal axis; a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel intersecting groups with adjacent strings spaced apart by approximately 0.25 to 0.75 inches and wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 51-58 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 51-58 degrees below the reference line, said intersection angles being selected to minimize distortion of said predetermined dimensions.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) A method for diagonal stringing of a sports racket, said strings being arranged in two parallel intersecting groups, said method comprising: creating a diagonal stringing pattern with a nominal intersection angle between the strings, including a representation of at least substantially all strings of the racket to be strung; applying said stringing pattern to a first racket frame of a construction type; determining an intersection point for each string representation with the frame; providing string holes in the frame at said intersection points; stringing the racket through said string holes; tensioning the strings and measuring distortion of the frame; re-stringing the racket to eliminate any measured distortion, said re-stringing comprising changing the intersection angle between the strings by passing each string through a hole offset from the hole corresponding to the nominal intersection angle in said stringing pattern, while maintaining said strings in each

Serial No. 09/749,227

Page 4

group in parallel relationship; re-tensioning the strings; and measuring distortion and re-stringing as required to eliminate distortion of the frame.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The method of claim 10, further comprising: creating a new diagonal stringing pattern based on said re-stringing; applying said new stringing pattern to a second racket frame of said construction type; determining an intersection point for each string representation with the second frame; providing string holes in the second frame at said intersection points; stringing the second racket through said string holes; tensioning the strings and measuring distortion of the frame; and repeating said re-stringing step with said second frame as required to eliminate distortion.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the racket frame comprises a frame defining an opening with a vertical axis substantially aligned with a handle and a perpendicular horizontal axis and said nominal intersection angle is approximately 55 degrees above and below the horizontal axis for first and second groups of strings, respectively.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, where in the diagonal stringing pattern is created with a nominal parallel spacing between strings of approximately 0.375 inches.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein said tensioning comprises tensioning every other string.

Claim 15 (previously amended) A sports racket, comprising;  
a frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis;  
a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in

Serial No. 09/749,227

Page 5

two parallel, interwoven groups, wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, with said strings having been restrung and re-tensioned in order to achieve said angular relationships, the frame and strings are in a non-distorted state, whereby the frame is not distorted.

Claim 16 (new) A sports racket, comprising; an undistorted frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis; a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel, interwoven groups wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and strings of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, said strings having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds.

Claim 17 (new) A sports racket, comprising: an undistorted frame defining an oval opening of predetermined dimensions with a vertical axis oriented along the elongated dimension and a perpendicular horizontal axis; a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis; and strings supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said strings being arranged in two parallel intersecting groups with adjacent strings substantially spaced apart by approximately 0.25 to 0.75 inches and wherein strings of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 51-58 degrees above said reference line and strings of

Serial No. 09/749,227

Page 6

the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 51-58 degrees below the reference line, said intersection angles being selected to minimize distortion of said predetermined frame dimensions and said strings having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds.

Claim 18 (new) A sports racket comprising:

a frame defining a rounded opening of predetermined shape with a vertical axis and a horizontal axis;

a handle secured to the frame and lying at least substantially along the vertical axis, said handle having a handle body; and

string segments supported by the frame and suspended within said opening, said string segments being arranged in two parallel, interwoven groups wherein string segments of the first group intersect a reference line parallel to the horizontal axis at an angle of about 49-60 degrees above said reference line and string segments of the second group intersect the reference line at an angle of about 49-60 degrees below the reference line, said string segments having a tension of between about 55-65 pounds, said string segments are substantially not positioned within said handle body.